

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

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1. A Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests sent to suppliers comprising the steps of:
 - 5 accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT) application;
 - 7 prompting a user through a series of screens to enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for each of the technical skills requested;
 - 10 submitting the request to contracted suppliers by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;
 - 13 receiving from a supplier a candidate or candidates with appended resumes as appropriate; and
 - 15 displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.
- 1 2. The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, wherein the SMA and
- 2 REQ/CAT applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site is provided for
- 3 suppliers to access to view request details and submit a candidate or
- 4 candidates.

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- 1 3. The Skills Matching Application of claim 1, further comprising the step of
- 2 responding to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an
- 3 approval and procurement process.

1 4. A Web-based Skills Matching Application (SMA) which allows a user to
2 communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a way that
3 significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of requests
4 sent to suppliers comprising the steps of:

5 accessing the SMA from a Web-based Requisition/Catalog
6 (REQ/CAT) Web application;

7 selecting by a user who needs to request a technical contractor a SMA
8 Web site;

9 prompting the user through a series of screens in the SMA Web site to
10 enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for
11 each of the technical skills requested;

12 submitting the request to contracted suppliers who are sent an e-mail
13 notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been entered into the
14 SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate against;

15 accessing the SMA Web site database by a supplier to view the request
16 details;

17 providing by a supplier a candidate or candidates by accessing the
18 SMA Web site and submitting candidates and appending resumes as
19 appropriate; and

20 viewing by the user the supplier responses and associated resumes and
21 either accepting or rejecting each candidate submitted.

1 5. A computer system running Skills Matching Application (SMA) which
2 allows a user to communicate requirements to technical service suppliers in a
3 way that significantly reduces the process time and improves the accuracy of
4 requests sent to suppliers comprising:

5 means for accessing the SMA from a Requisition/Catalog (REQ/CAT)
6 application also running on the computer system;

7 a display system for prompting a user through a series of screens to
8 enter a Statement of Work (SOW) and complete a skills detail checklist for
9 each of the technical skills requested;

10 transmitting means for submitting the request to contracted suppliers
11 by e-mail notification notifying the supplier that a new request has been
12 entered into the SMA application for them to review and submit a candidate
13 against; and

14 receiving means for receiving from a supplier a candidate or
15 candidates with appended resumes as appropriate, said display system
16 displaying for the user the supplier responses and associated resumes.

1 6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein the SMA and REQ/CAT
2 applications are Web-based and an SMA Web site running on the computer
3 system is provided for suppliers to access to view request details and submit a
4 candidate or candidates.

1 7. The computer system of claim 5, further comprising means for responding
2 to a user's selection of a candidate or candidates by invoking an approval and
3 procurement process running on said computer system.